[23rd January 1928

(*d*) In order to remove the nuisance caused by the stagnation of sewage in the bed of the river, it is proposed to construct intercepting sewers on both sides of the river and the Government have under consideration the question of providing funds for the work in the Civil Budget Estimate for 1928-29.

Provision of shelter for waiting patients in the Tirumani Leper Settlement.

*1320 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : With reference to my question No. 219 answered on 26th August 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of patients that have had to wait outside Tirumani Leper Settlement buildings on the average for each day during the six months from January to June 1927 ;

(*b*) how and where they were sheltered ; and

(*c*) what provision as to shelter is to be made in future for such waiting patients ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) There is no question of patients waiting for admission. Arrangements are made in advance for the reception of curable cases. Incurable, i.e., burnt-out, cases are admitted, if there is room when they apply for admission. The provision of waiting rooms would be equivalent to extending the settlement. The attention of the hon. Member is in this connexion invited to the answer given to clause (*c*) of question No. 219 asked on 26th August 1927.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire whether it is not a fact that patients before being admitted have to wait in the sun without any shelter ? I have myself seen it. I want to know whether the hon. Minister has ascertained it or not ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I am not aware that several patients have to wait."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know if at least some patients have to wait ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Admission is usually by previous arrangement and people are not taken in as they come in."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Before making arrangements they are expected to come and stay somewhere in the sun ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" They may stay elsewhere."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Where could they stay ? May I point out that this Tirumani village is far removed from the town and there is not even the shelter of a tree near by ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Government do not consider that a shelter is necessary because the number of admissions is very limited and no accommodation beyond this is available."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know how many have to wait daily before being admitted ? "